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## **Senate fixes ‘Bad Driver Law,’ provides reimbursement to motorists already fined**

**Lansing** – Legislation waiving a \$300 fee for motorists who fail to show proof of insurance when pulled over has been sent to the House for concurrence, Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell, announced today.

“The intent of the Driver Responsibility Act has always been to go after irresponsible drivers – including those who refuse to buy insurance – not drivers who forgot to carry a piece of paper with them,” Garcia said. “This is a matter of fairness and doing what is right for Michigan motorists.”

As amended, the bill:

- Allows a driver to appear prior to the appearance date on the citation and show proof that they had auto insurance at the time of the violation. If they do this, no Driver Responsibility fees may be levied.
- Provides for reimbursement to drivers already assessed the fee. Drivers have 60 days to appear in court and appeal the court’s ruling that resulted in the assessment being charged in the first place. If drivers prove they had insurance, the Secretary of State will refund the fees.
- Raises the Driver Responsibility assessment for lack of insurance to \$200 each year for two years. This puts the burden of responsibility more upon those drivers who are being truly irresponsible by not buying auto insurance.

Garcia noted that the legislation does not remove the civil infraction for failure to show proof of insurance, which was on the books long before the Driver Responsibility Act. Courts may still assess this \$25 fee, even if a driver appears in court with proof of insurance.

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